

Appln. No. 09/841,553
Amd. dated November 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 7, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

2 (Previously presented). An isolated polynucleotide encoding a hyperthermostable protease comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3 (Original). The polynucleotide according to claim 2, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

5 (Original). A method for preparing a hyperthermostable protease, comprising culturing a transformant containing the polynucleotide of claim 2, and harvesting a hyperthermostable protease from the culture.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

7 (Currently amended). An isolated polynucleotide encoding a hyperthermostable protease comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:[[6]] 5.

Appln. No. 09/841,553
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8 (Original). The polynucleotide according to claim 7,
which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

10 (Previously presented). A method for preparing a
hyperthermostable protease, comprising culturing a transformant
containing the polynucleotide of claim 7, and harvesting a
hyperthermostable protease from the culture.

Claims 11 and 12 (Cancelled).